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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/004,034	10/31/2001	Marvin Glenn Wong	10010378-1	5185
7590	07/28/2004			EXAMINER ROJAS, BERNARD
AGILENT TECHNOLOGIES, INC. Legal Department. DL429 Intellectual Property Administration P.O. Box 7599 Loveland, CO 80537-0599			ART UNIT 2832	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 07/28/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/004,034	WONG, MARVIN GLENN	
	Examiner Bernard Rojas	Art Unit 2832	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
 THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dickens et al. [US 6657525] in view of Ma [US 6,529,093].

Claim 1, Dickens et al. teaches a MEMS switch [80] comprising a deflecting beam [82] attached to a substrate [88], an actuator plate [96, 97] attached to said substrate, an attracted plate [100, 101] attached to said deflecting beam, a first signal path plate [92, 93] attached to said substrate a second signal path plate [83] attached to said deflecting beam and wherein said first and second signal path plates are connected to a signal path so that when said first and second signal path plates are in close proximity to each other the signal path closes [figure 3c].

Dickens et al. fails to teach the use of a dielectric attached to one of said first or second signal path plates.

Ma teaches the use of a dielectric [509] attached to a signal path in a MEMS switch [501] comprising a deflecting beam [503] attached to a substrate [515], an actuator plate [507] attached to said substrate a first signal path plate [505] attached to the substrate.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the dielectric layer taught by Ma in the Mem switch of Dickens et al. in order to prevent arcing and to prevent short circuiting when the switch is activated [col. 3 lines 23-25].

Claim 2, Ma teaches that the deflecting beam is a cantilever beam [figure 5a-5b]. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a cantilever instead of a fixed deflection beam as shown by Dickens et al. since they are equivalent types of Mem switch architectures used in the Mem switching art is well known. The selection of any of these known equivalents to perform the switching function would be within the level of ordinary skill in the art.

Claim 3, Dickens et al. teaches that the deflecting beam is a beam having a first and second end and said first and second ends are fixed [figures 3a-3c].

Claims 4-8, the method steps of actuating the Mem switch are obvious in the product structure as discussed for claims 1-3 [col. 4 line 54 - col. 5 line 15].

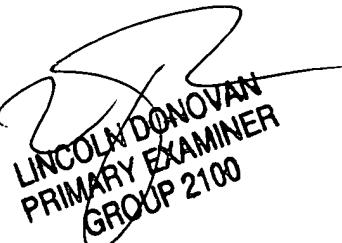
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bernard Rojas whose telephone number is (571) 272-1998. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-4:00), every other Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Elvin G. Enad can be reached on (571) 272-1990. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Br



LINCOLN J. DONOVAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 2100